Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

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R 250730Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7002

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

E.O. 11652: N/A

 $TAGS:\ PFOR, PINT, CZ, PL, IT, XG$

SUBJECT: PREPARATORY MEETING OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES IN

WARSAW

1. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN KEEPING TABS ON THE FLURRY OF RUMORS AMONG DIPLOMATS HERE AS WELL AS AMONG OFFICIALS WILLING TO COMMENT ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE EUROPEAN CP PREPARATORY CONFERENCE APPARENTLY SET FOR

LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER. AS OF YET, NO ONE IS ABLE OR WILLING TO PIN DOWN EXACTLY WHEN THE CP REPRESENTATIVES WILL MEET, BUT IT APPEARS NEVERTHELESS THAT THE PLANS HAVE NOT BEEN DERAILED BY THE "COMINFORMIST" EVENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA. (FROM OUR SOURCES HERE, SOME WESTERN AND SOME SOCIALIST, IT LOOKS AS IF THE YUGOSLAVS STILL HAVE NOT MADE UP THEIR MINDS TO ATTEND.)

- 2. CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR ROMANIAN COLLEAGUES HAVE REFLECTED THE ATTITUDE GENERALLY ASCRIBED TO THE ROMANIANS TOWARDS BOTH THE PREPARATORY AND FULL CONFERENCES, E.G. NO READING OF ANOTHER CP OUT OF THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, NO CREATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL. ROMANIANS HERE SAY ALSO THAT THEIR HOPE IS TO LIMIT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION IN FULL EUROPEAN CONFERENCE, TENTATIVELY SET FOR LATE 1974 OR EARLY 1975, TO EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG CPS BOTH IN AND OUT OF POWER ON HOW THEY OPERATE IN OWN DOMESTIC SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MILIEU. THE CPR DESIRES LITTLE IF ANY ATTENTION ON WORLD PROBLEMS IN THE EUROPEAN CP FORUM, SAY OUR SOURCES, WHO ARE REALISTIC ENOUGH TO ADMIT THAT THE SOVIETS NEVERTHELESS ARE APT TO TRY COMING DOWN HARD ON THE CHINESE OR EVEN FORMING A NEW COMINTERN.
- 3. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC COMMENT BY OFFICIALS HERE RELATIVE TO THE PREPARATORY OR FULL CP CONFERENCES, OR TO THE ARRESTS AND TRIALS

OF THE COMINFORMISTS IN YUGOSLAVIA. AN MFA OFFICIAL (SIMECEK) SEPT 24 CONFIRMED THE RETURN HOME THE CSSR AMBASSADOR TO BELGRADE, ASCRIBING THIS AS MUCH TO A NEED FOR A GENERAL REVIEW OF CSSR-YUGOSLAVRELATIONS AS TO THE TRIALS.

4. AS FOR THE KSC ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE RUOPEAN CP GATHERING, THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID HE WAS UNSURE OF THE DATES FOR THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE BUT THAT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR THE END OF SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER. THE KSC WAS IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE IDEA FOR A EUROPEAN CP CONFERENCE, WHICH HE CONFIRMED TO BE UNDER THE FORMAL SPONSORSHIP OF THE POLISH AND ITALIAN CPS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED A REFERENCE TO SOME UNIDENTIFIED DIFFICULTIES WITH THE ITALIANS, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT WITH THE FRENCH CP, OVER THE FORMAT FOR THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE. THESE PROBLEMS IN ALL LIKELIHOOD WOULD BE SURMOUNTED IN TIME FOR THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE TO GET UNDER WAY, SOURCE SAID. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. THE MFA OFFICIAL POINTED OUT WITH A DEGREE OF PRIDE THE CIRCUM-SPECTION INHERENT IN THE LACK OF ANY REFERENCE IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS TO THE YOUGSLAV COMINTERNIST AFFAIR, DESCRIBING THIS RESTRAINT AS KSC ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT ONCE THE FLOODGATE WERE OPEN TO AN OUTPOURING OF CRITICISM DIRECTED AT ANOTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRY, NO MATTER HOW JUSTIFIED THE CRITICISM MIGHT BE IN THIS YUGOSLAV CASE, IT WOULD BE HARD TO SHUT IT OFF. THIS COMMENT LENDS ITSELF TO OUR

FEELING THAT KSC HAS BEEN A PUSHER FOR THE CONFERENCE, PERHAPS WORKING BEHIND THE SCENE ON BEHALF OF THE POLES OR SOVIETS ON TASKS SUCH AS BRINGING THE ITALIANS AROUND. TEREFORE, THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS WOULD NOT NOW LIKE TO SEE THE EVENT STILLBORN. AS THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID, THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC OUTCRY AGAINST THE YUGOSLAVS, BUT OUR VIEW IT THAT THIS OTHERWISE IRONCLAD STIFLING OF PARTY SPOKESMEN AND NEWSPAPER EDITORS WOULD DISSIPATE OVERNIGHT IN THE FACE OF ANY IRREPARABLE DAMAGE CAUSED THE CONFERENCE BY THE YUGOSLAV TRIALS.

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